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personally to supervise the contracts for building, and to inspect the progress of the work almost daily. He was thus able to save thousands of dollars to the Trustees, and to see the present building completed at a cost greatly within the original estimate. Those only who were associated with him in this the great achievement of his life, can rightly value the courage, patience, devotion, indomitable perseverance and ceaseless activity displayed by him throughout the entire period.

As a presiding officer, both at the meetings of the Academy and in the Council, his extreme punctuality, dignity of manner, unfailing courtesy and accurate acquaintance with parliamentary usage leading to prompt decisions, which seldom or never failed to command support, have increased in no small degree the debt of gratitude due him by the institution which he has served so faithfully and well.

Of his services to the scientific world this is not the time nor the occasion to speak in detail, but suffice it to say, they are such as have been long and widely recognized.

In view of the foregoing recital of facts, we deem it every way fitting that the Academy should suitably express and place upon record, its grateful sense of the long and faithful services of its retiring President, and we accordingly propose the following resolutions for its adoption :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Academy be, and they are hereby tendered to Dr. W. S. W. RUSCHENBERGER for the eminent services he has rendered both before and since he has held its honored position of President.

Resolved, That this report, and these resolutions be entered in full upon the minutes, and published in the Proceedings, and that a copy thereof suitably engrossed, attested by the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of the Academy be presented to him.

ISAAC C. MARTINDALE,
JOHN H. REDFIELD,
S. RAYMOND ROBERTS,

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 20th, 1881.

Committee.

Varying Influence of Heat on Flower-buds and Leaf-buds.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN referred to specimens of *Cratægus*, sent by Mr. Case, of Indiana, on which the sender remarked that the buds were larger through the winter on alternate years—and that the plants flowered freely in the seasons corresponding with those following the large buds. Mr. Meehan said, that though it must

be within the knowledge of most observers that on the recurrence of spring, flower-buds were much larger than leaf-buds in the same species, no use had been made of this fact in physiological teaching so far as he knew. At the fall of the leaf, as any one might see in the peach, cherry, apple, pear, maple, willows, poplars, alders and numerous others, the flower-buds could scarcely, if at all, be discerned from leaf-buds; but by spring the flower-buds had increased to double their autumn size, while the leaf-buds remained exactly the same. Whenever the thermometer was in ever so slight a degree above the freezing point, the flower-bud increased in size during the winter. The leaf-bud required a higher temperature to excite it. This difference in excitability ought to be of value in explaining some biological points.

DECEMBER 27.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-six persons present.

The death of Henry Morris, a member, was announced.

The following was ordered to be published :—